



# The Cachalotter

News, Information, and Memories by and for the Members of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

## Listen to These Admonitions...

*The History of the Order of the Arrow in Narragansett Council to Highlight Our 2013 Winter Gathering*

The Order of the Arrow, Scouting's "Honor Society", was founded by E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation in 1915 as the *Wimachtendienk* program. In 1938, the Fall River Council formed Noquochoke Lodge 124, which has become, after multiple mergers of local councils and lodges, the modern-day Abnaki Lodge 102 of the Narragansett Council. 2013 will mark the 75th anniversary of the Order of the Arrow in our area, and the Abnaki Lodge has been spending considerable time and effort to document the history of the various lodges that combined to create it.

So, on January 26th, 2013, starting at 11:00AM, representatives from the lodge will be on-hand at our annual Winter Gathering to talk about the history of the Order of the Arrow locally, and show off the memorabilia and artifacts they've collected that help make up the physical history of the lodge. We know many of our Association have been very active in the Order of the Arrow over the years, and we count multiple past Chiefs among our membership, so we hope people will stop in and help share their own memories of their time in the OA, whether that's a story about getting their arrow "notched"



during their Ordeal, the most clever way they disguised their script for a ceremony, or even their favorite "fellowship weekend" service project at camp.

The Gathering this year will take place at Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall at 569 Sanford Road in Westport, Massachusetts. We'll get started at 11:00AM, with some time set aside to catch up with old friends as you arrive and check out some of the ephemera collected by the Lodge and the Association. Lunch will be available at noon, followed by a quick update on what the Association has been up to and what's coming up in the near future, capped with the Lodge's presentation as our main event. Things should wrap up by 3:00PM.

As with our other events, our Winter Gathering is free to attend. Lunch is also free, although we appreciate a small donation to help us defray the costs of the meal (\$5 suggested) if you partake. If you do think you will be joining us for lunch, a quick RSVP either via our web site, our Facebook invite for the event, or by email, is greatly appreciated to help us plan quantities appropriately. Info on the Winter Gathering is available on our web site at:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/gathering>

Questions or RSVPs for lunch can be sent to [gathering2013@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:gathering2013@cachalotalumni.org). We're looking forward to seeing all of you there!

### Gathering 2013 Details

Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
11:00AM - 3:00PM

Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall  
569 Sanford Road  
Westport, MA

Free admission for members and non-members, lunch available (\$5 donation suggested)

Contact us at [gathering2013@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:gathering2013@cachalotalumni.org) or visit us online at [www.cachalotalumi.org](http://www.cachalotalumi.org) for more information.

## Wall of Fame Unveiled

*Homecoming 2012 Marks a Significant Milestone for the Association*

Whoever was manning the controls on the "Weather Machine" had them set appropriately for us at Homecoming 2012, as throngs of Cachalot alumni and alumnae headed out to camp to see the formal unveiling of the Camp Cachalot Wall of Fame, and the renovated Bill Joyce Memorial Flag field., and to celebrate the induction of our three newest honorees: John "Jack" Byrne, Roland Deneault, and Armand Guilmette. Members of both Jack's and Armand's family were in attendance as

well, and the ceremony was recorded to send to Roland and his family, who were unable to attend.

Our 2012 honorees bring us to a total of ten names of the Wall, and we hope that your nominations this year bring another round of great people to join them.

The Wall itself, and the renovated flag field, was also on full view of the Scouts, Scouters,

and families in attendance at closing ceremonies throughout the summer camp season, and we received a lot of great feedback and compliments on the work done by our members. To those of you who contributed time, money, or advice to the project, thank you!

A few photos from Homecoming 2012 can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

## The Cachaletter

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Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

*The Cachaletter* is the newsletter of the Camp Cachalot Alumni Association. It is published twice annually: once in the spring and once in the fall, by the Communications Committee.

Questions or other feedback related to *The Cachaletter* can be sent via email to [cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:cachaletter@cachalotalumni.org).

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Dennis J. Wilkinson, II

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Victor Sylvia  
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## The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association

The Camp Cachalot Alumni Association was founded in 2004 with the express purpose of supporting Camp Cachalot and being a social organization for the extended family of the Camp. Anyone who has ever had any involvement with Camp Cachalot, the former Moby Dick Council, or any of the predecessor camps or Councils is eligible for membership. It is a not-for-profit organization operated under the auspices of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Our membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th, and all membership fees contribute directly to our endowment fund, the proceeds of which go directly towards the support of Camp Cachalot.

More information about the Alumni Association, including membership forms, back issues of *The Cachaletter*, Camp history, and online discussion forums, can be found online at our web site:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/>

We can also be reached via US Mail at the following address:

Camp Cachalot Alumni Association  
c/o Narragansett Council, BSA  
P.O. Box 14777  
Providence, RI 02914



## Past, Present, and Future

*Vic Sylvia, Association Chairman*

With the holiday season quickly approaching, I look back over a very interesting and eventful year. January was a busy month with the Association's members again manning the Warming Station and program areas at a very successful Klondike Derby. Two weeks later we hosted a very well attended Winter Gathering with past Chairman Jeff Dumais presenting a history of Klondike Derbies from 1981 to present. Our Memorial Day Family Weekend was well attended and had two special guests attending. Todd VanCantfort traveled from Washington D.C. and Michael Escobar visited from Toronto Canada. Both were Camp Staff members from the mid-seventies through the early eighties and shared their experiences and stories of their years on Camp Staff. In June we hosted our Beaver Work Day with members assisting Ranger Karrie Dumais with the ongoing renovations to Prescott Hall and the completion of the Wall of Fame at the renovated Bill Joyce Memorial Flag Field. In July we hosted our 8th Annual Homecoming, where we dedicated our newly-constructed Wall of Fame and inducted three outstanding volunteers. Again, this was the best attended event, Homecoming or otherwise, to date.

### Our members stepped up

Through the Summer Camp season our members continued their generous support by donating much needed program material to the Summer Camp program. Our members stepped up and provided oars, paddles, personal flotation devices, a rocket launcher, lashing poles, and nature related items to help improve the program areas. We are working with the Narragansett Council to formulate a plan to improve attendance and strengthen the programs areas at Summer Camp.

As we close out 2012 and look forward to 2013, we continue to ask for your help. Our first concern is always in building our membership. Please take the time to renew your membership and talk to your friends about joining the Association. The larger we become as an Association the stronger our voice will be as we work to improve and sustain Camp Cachalot. The new year will see us continue to suggest ways to improve facilities and programs at Cachalot, not only for the Summer Camp season, but for weekend camping as well. The challenges we face working together will strengthen our resolve to insure that Cachalot remains a Gateway to Adventure for current and future Scouts. Thank you for your support and continued participation as we look forward to a successful new year. 🐻



Vic Sylvia lays a peck on the cheek of Armand Guilmette's daughter, Rita Rodericks, after presenting her with the original temporary dedication plaque from the Ranger's residence.

# Who Will Be the Class of 2013?

## Nominations Sought for This Year's Wall of Fame Ballot

Very soon after the first of the year, we will begin the process of putting together the ballot for this year's Wall of Fame voting, and as always, we rely on the nominations put together by our members to find those people most deserving of a spot on the Wall of Fame. We strongly encourage you to think back to those people you remember doing their best to make Cachalot or its programs better, grab a nomination form from our web site at:

<http://www.cachalotalumni.org/walloffame>

fill it out as completely as you can, and get those nominations back to us. Remember that this year, nominees must have had their first involvement with Cachalot in 1992 or earlier, and have significant contributions in one or more of the following categories:

**Service** - nominations for Service are intended to recognize those people who have volunteered their own time and effort to provide physical service to camp to help improve the facility. For example, nominees in the Service category may have helped build and maintain buildings; helped with conservation efforts by planting trees or clearing campsites, helped to keep camp vehicles up and running, and so on.

**Program** - nominations for Program should recognize those volunteers who have helped to provide excellent programs for Scouts and Scouters at camp, whether it be by creating, organizing, or helping conduct events at camp, preserving the campfire traditions at Cachalot, or teaching and training Scouts and Scouters.

**Professional** - nominees in the Professional category would include any employee of the council or the Boy Scouts of America as a whole who have gone above and beyond the requirements of their job in the service of Camp Cachalot. This includes Scouting professional and office staff, Rangers, and members of the summer camp staff.

**Financial** - nominations in this category should be for those people and organizations who have made significant financial contributions expressly for Camp Cachalot. This category is not intended to recognize those large financial contributors to Scouting or to the council more generally, but rather those contributions with a direct, intentional, lasting impact on Camp Cachalot itself.

Nominations must be submitted before April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for consideration for this year's ballot.




## Yukon, Ho!

### Association Once Again Manning the Warming Station at the Klondike Derby

On Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Alumni Association will again be out at Cachalot, keeping Noquochoke Lodge warm and doling out hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks to the participants of the Klondike Derby. We'll have information about the Association and our upcoming events available, and we always love to chat with any alums who happen through as they're out with their units for the event.

If you plan to be at the Klondike, please, drop in! If you're looking for something to keep yourself occupied while you're out there, and would like to help man the warming station with us, drop us a line at [info@cachalotalumni.org](mailto:info@cachalotalumni.org) or reach out on our Facebook group; extra hands are always welcome!

Handlebar moustaches, scratchy woolens, and winter furs are strictly optional. 

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Klondike Derby  
Alumni Warming Station  
Camp Cachalot

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 11:00AM - 3:00PM

Winter Gathering 2013  
Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall  
569 Sanford Road  
Westport, MA

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Wall of Fame Nominations Close

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

Wall of Fame Ballots issued,  
voting begins

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Wall of Fame Voting Ends

### Executive Committee and Other e-Mail Contacts

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Other Inquiries  
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# Summer M

A Collection of Photos from Our Summer Homec



Toni Byrne, Jack's wife, receiving Jack's Wall of Fame plaque from Brenda Pomfret



All of the Alumni kids in attendance at Labor Day



Wall-of-Famer Ed Tavares, wearing his 1946 Scout uniform, at the Wall of Fame Induction ceremony in July



John Reale and Ron LeBlanc looking at a photo of Roland Deneault



Alumni kids at

# Memories

Coming and Labor Day Family Camping Weekend



Weekend 2012



Archie "Iggy" Belanger and some alumni kids fishing in the lagoon of Five Mile Pond, Labor Day Weekend 2012



The Whelans looking for wild grapes by the Besse Bog dam, Labor Day Weekend 2012



Alumni Kids at the Besse Bog Reservoir, Labor Day Weekend 2012



Play at the Waterfront, Labor Day Weekend 2012



Alumni kids roasting marshmallows, Labor Day Weekend 2012

# Wild Cachalot

## *Landscaping With Native Plants at the Wall of Fame Gardens*

By now many have you have seen the wall created by the alumni association to honor those who have given greatly of themselves for the benefit if Cachalot. Great thought and deliberation went into the design of the wall and the improved Bill Joyce Flag Field. Every element has meaning and the wall, as currently built, can accommodate several decades of future honorees. When visiting the wall you may have also notice the flower gardens planted around the wall. These flowers, like everything else about the wall, were chosen carefully.

As the construction of the wall neared completion the Wall of Fame committee turned their attention to the finishing touches. After weighing many options the committee settled on pine needles as a ground covering as the best choice. Once spread over the flag pole field, it was the clear that the committee made the right decision. The pine needles created a natural feel that tied the new construction into the surrounding hillside. Best of all, the pine needles were free and more will be added every autumn by the surrounding pitch pines.

Not to break with the careful planning that began this project, the committee decided that the plants used in these gardens should be native. Native plants (or animals) are those

that naturally occur in a geographic area. Native plants offer several benefits over exotic species. Native plants provide food and shelter to local wildlife. Bees were buzzing over our native blooms within minutes of planting. A hummingbird was sipping nectar within the hour.

The new gardens include black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and great blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*). However, the most surprising and interesting plant in the Wall of Fame gardens is *Opuntia humifusa*; the eastern prickly pear cactus. That's right; a native New England cactus! The eastern prickly pear is at the northeast limits of its range in Massachusetts and, as you may have guessed, is found only in habitats with very sandy soils. The known Massachusetts populations occur on Nantucket and the outer Cape, however there is an old (pre-1978) record from the southern Connecticut Valley. Its local rarity ranks it as a "species of special concern" by the Natural Heritage/Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Our prickly pears do not look like much at the time of this writing, but they will mature

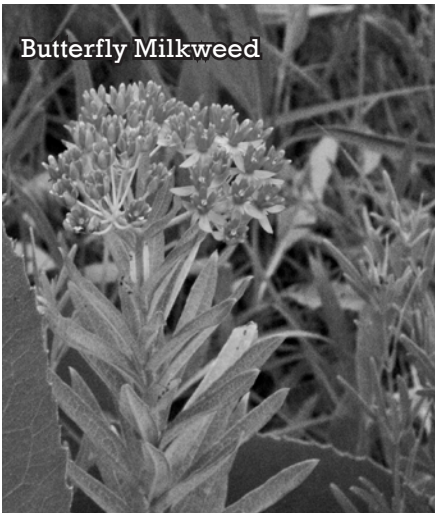
into plants that are two to three feet across. Hummingbirds and butterflies will be attracted to the large, trumpet-shaped, yellow flowers this cactus produces in the spring. The red fruits, produced in the late summer, are sweet and edible—if you can beat the wildlife to them. Eastern prickly pear does not typically have large, obvious spine. Instead, it has very small, reddish-brown, barbed bristles which will stick into unwary fingers. And they will hurt!

All of the plants in these gardens (to date) are perennial and will grow to fill in the Wall of Fame Gardens. Over time we will be able to split these plants for use in conservation projects around camp; particularly erosion control. We will also continue to add to add new species of native plants in order to extend the "flowering season" (now mostly restricted to late summer) as well as increase the education value to Cachalot scouts, and ecological value to the local wildlife. 🐻

*Obviously, the pictures lose a little in a black and white publication like the Cachalotter. We've used an assortment of Creative Commons-licensed photos here—to check out the originals, we've put the web addresses (and QR codes scannable by many smartphones) for the original photos at the bottom of the opposite page. Please have a look!*

Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus





<http://flic.kr/p/5SocDA>  
Butterfly Milkweed



<http://flic.kr/p/STWnVi>  
New England Aster



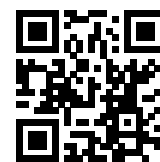
<http://flic.kr/p/6BCr8a>  
Purple Coneflower



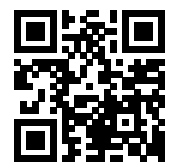
<http://flic.kr/p/d6CP4j>  
Great Blue Lobelia



<http://flic.kr/p/d7D8pE>  
Cardinal Flower



<http://flic.kr/p/a5nBpj>  
Eastern Prickly Pear



<http://flic.kr/p/7bqxpK>  
Black-Eyed Susan

Many thanks to Flickr users gmayfield10, per\_verdonk, F. D. Richards, tarboxje, wackybadger, and stadtkatze for sharing their photos with a Creative Commons license!

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